

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 SAM-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-10 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /078 W

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O R 101635Z MAR 75

FM USDEL ASWAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0075

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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JERUSALEM AND ANKARA FOR SECRETARYS PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG XF US

SUBJ: SADAT BACKGROUNDER FOR EGYPTIAN PRESS

1. PRESIDENT SADAT CALLED EDITORS OF EGYPTIAN DAILIES TO ASWAN FOR BACKGROUNDER MARCH 10. SESSION WAS CONDUCTED IN PRESENCE SENIOR GOE ADVISORS ALSO SUMMONED TO ASWAN FOR PRIVATE MEETING WITH SADAT. THESE ADVISORS INCLUDED PRIMIN HEGAZI, MININT SALIM, ASU HEAD HAFIZ GHANIM, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I, AND MININFO ABU AL-MAGD,
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IN ADDITION TO FONMIN FAHMY AND MINWAR GAMASI, WHO WERE

ALREADY IN ASWAN FOR KISSINGER VISIT.

2. RELIABLE JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED BACKGROUNDER, TELL US SADAT ADVISED PRESS TO TAKE HIS OWN BALANCED AND TRANQUIL VIEW OF EVENTS. REFUSING TO COMMENT ON ANY FACET OF SECRETARY'S VISIT PER SE, HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHETHER NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED OR FAIL, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR EMOTIVE REPORTING. IF NO PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED, THEN GOE MUST SIMPLY TRY AGAIN. THERE WOULD BE NO USEFUL PURPOSE SERVED IN DEFAMING USG OR US DIPLOMACY, HE ADDED.

3. ASKED ABOUT VARIOUS OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES, INCLUDING GOE RELATIONS WITH SARG, LARG, AND PALESTINIANS, SADAT SAID NOTHING NEW, USING THE OCCASION TO PROJECT CALM, SELF-CONFIDENT IMAGE. ON PLO, FOR EXAMPLE, HE REPORTEDLY CONFINED HIS REMARKS TO PRO FORMA STATEMENT OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS.

COMMENT: PURPOSE OF BACKGROUNDER WAS APPARENTLY TO ENSURE LOCAL REPORTING REMAINS RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NON-SENSATIONALIST, PARTICULARLY IN EVENT OF FAILURE OF CURRENT EFFORTS ARRANGE SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. "BE LIKE ME," SADAT REPORTEDLY SAID, "RELAXED AND SELF-CONFIDENT."
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFING MATERIALS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASWAN00091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0645
From: ASWAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750368/aaaacixw.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT BACKGROUNDER FOR EGYPTIAN PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, XF, US, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006